

Message Text

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PAGE 01 IZMIR 00287 131515Z

53

ACTION SY-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SYE-00 /018 W

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P R 131210Z SEP 76

FM AMCONSUL IZMIR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1652

AMCONSUL ZURICH

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

UNCLAS IZMIR 287

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: ASEC, OTRA

SUBJ: TRAVEL OF SY AGENTS JOHNSON, LECKER, MITCHELL

1. RPP PROVINCIAL CHAIRMAN EKREM BULGUN AND A DELEGATION OF ABOUT 30 PARTY MEMBERS MET S .Y. AGENTS JOHNSON, LECKER, AND MITCHELL AT IZMIR AIRPORT SATURDAY MORNING. THE CONSUL GENERAL AND BPAO WERE ON HAND AS WELL. RPP SECRETARY FOR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS, ORHAN KOLOGLU, AND ECEVIT'S PERSONAL BODYGUARD, MUMTAZ KARADUMAN, ARRIVED WITH THE AGENTS AS ESCORT.
2. KARADUMAN'S ROLE AS GUARDIAN TO THE THREE HERE RECEIVED MORE PRESS PLAY THAN THE REMARKS OF THE AGENTS MADE AT

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A MID-MORNING PRESS CONFERENCE. THE CONFERENCE BEGAN AT RPP HEADQUARTERS AND LATER MOVED TO OFFICE OF MAYOR IHSAN ALYANAK. ALYANAK PROFESSED HIS ADMIRATION OF AMERICAN BLACKS, ESPECIALLY FIGHTERS AND ENGAGED JOHNSON IN A BRIEF BOUT OF "INDIAN WRESTLING" TO UNDERScore HIS OWN EXPERIENCE AS A BOXER. LOCAL PAPERS GAVE PHOTO STORIES BOTTEM FRONT PAGE PLAY SUNDAY. THEREAFTER COVERAGE WAS INCIDENTAL TO REPORTING OF LOCAL HOST, CHAIRMAN BULGUN, BEING CALLED AWAY TO ANKARA TO RECEIVE ECEVIT'S ENDORSEMENT FOR RE-ELECTION AT NEXT DISTRICT PARTY CONGRESS.

3. THE AGENTS WERE WARMLY RECEIVED ON ALL SIDES. JOHNSON WAS QUICKLY RECOGNIZED BY PUBLIC AS " THE POLICEMAN WHO SAVED UNCLASSIFIED

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ECEVIT". WHEN ASKED TO RELATE INCIDENT HE CAREFULLY EXPLAINED

ROLES PLAYED BY LECKER, MITCHELL AND TWO OTHER AGENTS IN SAFE-GUARDING ECEVIT AT THE WALDORF HOTEL AS WELL AS AD HOC CIRCUMSTANCES OF ECEVIT'S ADDRESS TO OVERFLOW AUDIENCE OUTSIDE MAIN RECEPTION HALL.

4. RPP SIGHT SEEING ARRANGEMENTS INCLUDED IZMIR INTERNATIONAL FAIR AND EXCURSION TO EPHEBUS. FOLLOWING RETURN TO ISTANBUL MONDAY AFTERNOON THIS MAY BE EXTENDED TO INCLUDE TOPKAPI

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PALACE AND EXCURSION TO BURSA IF TIME PERMITS. THE GROUP HAS BEEN BOOKED AT CINAR HOTEL NEAR AIRPORT.

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Disposition Event:
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